

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An information transmission apparatus comprising:

request analyzing means for receiving an instruction including both a request for transmission of specific information and an identifier from one of a plurality of information processing apparatus connected with said information transmission apparatus by way of a common connection line, said identifier identifying said information processing apparatus that has made the transmission request and said plurality of information processing apparatus having their respective identifiers, and for analyzing the specific information to be transmitted and the identifier associated with said instruction;

storage means for storing array data about arrays each indicating a correspondence between one of a plurality of different pieces of information to be transmitted and at least an identifier identifying one of said plurality of information processing apparatus;

information addition means for adding the identifier associated with said instruction to the specific information associated with said instruction by referring to said storage means based on analysis results from said request analyzing means; and

information transmission means for transmitting the specific information to which the identifier is added to the information processing device which has provided said instruction to said information transmission apparatus.

2. (original): The information transmission apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when said request analyzing means receives instructions indicating a request for transmission of identical specific information from two or more of said plurality of information processing apparatus, said information adding means adds two or more identifiers associated with said instructions to the identical specific information associated with said instructions.

3. (original): The information transmission apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when receiving an instruction indicating a request for transmission of specific information, said request analyzing means adds only an identifier associated with said instruction to said array data if a correspondence between the specific information associated with said instruction and at least one identifier is included in the array data stored in said storage means, and adds both identification information identifying the specific information and the identifier, which are associated with said instruction, to said array data if no correspondence between the specific information associated with said instruction and at least one identifier is included in the array data.

4. (currently amended): The information transmission apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when transmitting two or more of different pieces of the specific information, said information transmission means performs time division processing according to a number of different pieces of the specific information to be transmitted and then ~~transmit~~ transmits them in units of a predetermined transmission unit time.

5. (original): The information transmission apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein when there is a change in the number of different pieces of specific information to be transmitted in units of the predetermined transmission unit time because of an instruction indicating an information transmission request which said request analyzing means newly receives, said information transmission means newly performs time division processing.

6. (original): The information transmission apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said information transmission means transmits image information about one frame in units of a predetermined transmission unit time.

7. (original): The information transmission apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said common connection line is a single cable.

8. (original): The information transmission apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a hard disk for storing said plurality of different pieces of information that can be read and transmitted by said information transmission means.

9. (currently amended): An information transmission method comprising ~~the steps of:~~
receiving an instruction including both a request for transmission of specific information and an identifier from one of a plurality of information processing apparatus connected with one another by way of a common connection line, said identifier identifying said information processing apparatus that has made the transmission request and said plurality of information processing apparatus having their respective identifiers;

analyzing the specific information to be transmitted and the identifier associated with said instruction;

storing array data about arrays each indicating a correspondence between one of a plurality of different pieces of information and ~~at least an~~ identifier identifying at least one of said plurality of information processing apparatus;

adding the identifier associated with said instruction to the specific information associated with said instruction by referring to said array data based on analysis results obtained in said ~~step of~~ analyzing the specific information; and

transmitting the specific information associated with said instruction to which the identifier is added to the information processing device which has provided said instruction.

10. (new): The information transmission method according to claim 9, wherein if the receiving of the instruction comprises receiving instructions indicating a request for transmission of identical specific information from two or more of said plurality of information processing apparatus, the adding of the identifier comprises adding two or more identifiers associated with said instructions to the identical specific information associated with said instructions.

11. (new): The information transmission method according to claim 9, wherein in the receiving the instruction indicating the request for transmission of specific information, the adding of the identifier comprises adding only an identifier associated with said instruction to said array data if a correspondence between the specific information associated with said instruction and at least one identifier is included in the array data stored by the storing the array data, and the adding the identifier comprises adding both identification information identifying

the specific information and the identifier, which are associated with said instruction, to said array data if no correspondence between the specific information associated with said instruction and at least one identifier is included in the array data stored by the storing the array data.

12. (new): The information transmission method according to claim 9, wherein if the transmitting of the specific information is transmitting two or more of different pieces of specific information, the transmitting of the specific information comprises performing time division processing according to a number of different pieces of specific information to be transmitted and then transmitting the number of different pieces of specific information in units of a predetermined transmission unit time.

13. (new): The information transmission method according to claim 12, wherein, when there is a change in the number of different pieces of specific information to be transmitted in units of the predetermined transmission unit time because the receiving the instruction newly receives an instruction indicating an information transmission request, the transmitting of the specific information further comprises newly performing time division processing according to the changed number of different pieces of the specific information to be transmitted.

14. (new): The information transmission method according to claim 9, wherein said common connection line is a single cable.

15. (new): The information transmission apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of the information processing apparatus are connected to the information transmission apparatus only via the common connection line.

16. (new): The information transmission apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said common connection line is a single cable.

17. (new): The information transmission method according to claim 9, wherein the plurality of the information processing apparatus are connected to the information transmission apparatus only via the common connection line.

18. (new): The information transmission method according to claim 17, wherein said common connection line is a single cable.